Volumes 1-6 Now on Sale in the Popular ebook Format Too!

Humans and Youkai... Their inseparability is woven into Gensokyo. What is its true form?

第48話 Kosuzu Motoori's Conflict

原作◆ZUN 漫画◆春河もえ

東方鈴奈庵

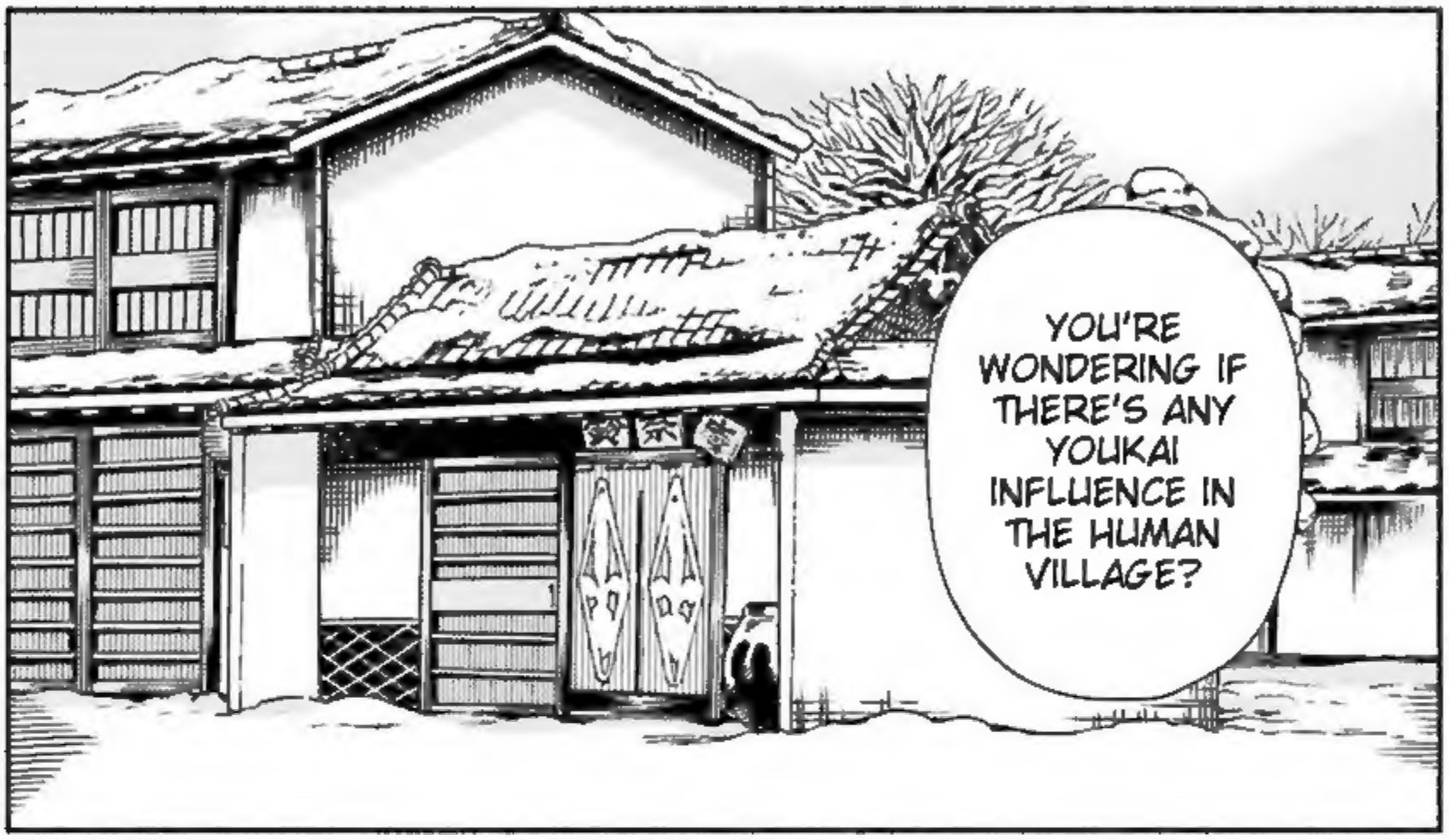
~Forbidden Scrollery.

©上海アリス幻樂団

東方鈴奈庵
~ Forbidden Scrollery.

本居小鈴●幻想郷の人里にある貸本屋「鈴奈庵」の娘。〝判読眼のビブロフィリア〟。

霧雨魔理沙●幻想郷にある魔法の森に住んでいる人間の魔法使い。〝普通の魔法使い〟



MONSTERS SHOW UP IN TOWN AT NIGHT, RIGHT?

AND SOMETIMES YOU EVEN HEAR ABOUT SIGHTINGS DURING THE DAY.

IT'S PRETTY OBVIOUS THAT A SINGLE WALL AIN'T GONNA KEEP EVERY SINGLE YOUKAI OUT.

AND THIS "BUNBUN-MARU" HERE WAS WRITTEN BY A TENGU.

SO IT'S NOT LIKE THEY HAVE NO INFLUENCE, EVEN IN THE VILLAGE.

SURE,

I REALIZE THAT YOU MIGHT BUMP INTO ONE, OR THAT THEY SOMETIMES DO BUSINESS HERE,

BUT IN AKYU'S BOOK,

SHE WENT SO FAR AS TO WRITE: "ON THE CONTRARY, THE HUMAN VILLAGE WOULD BE UNABLE TO EXIST WITHOUT YOUKAI."

THAT SOUNDS A LOT STRONGER TO ME. LIKE, THEY'RE NOT JUST BLENDING IN, THEY'RE ACTIVELY EXERTING SOME KIND OF INFLUENCE.

AND SINCE YOU'RE ALWAYS EXTERMINATING YOUKAI, MARISA, I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT KNOW WHAT SHE WAS TALKING ABOUT.

幻想郷縁起

BUT,

I HAVE HEARD THAT THE VILLAGE WAS ORIGINALLY CREATED TO PRESERVE THE EXISTENCE OF YOUKAI.

THAT'S THE ORIGIN OF GENSOKYO.

IT'S NOT LIKE PROTECTING HUMANS FROM YOUKAI GIVES ME ANY SPECIAL INSIGHT INTO THE VILLAGE,

STEP

HMM...

BACK WHEN HUMANS FEARED THE DARKNESS, YOUKAI RULED A WORLD OF FEAR.

BUT EVENTUALLY, SCIENCE PROGRESSED FAR ENOUGH TO BANISH DARKNESS FROM THE NIGHT, SO HUMANS STARTED NO LONGER FEARING YOUKAI.

REALIZING THE THREAT, THE YOUKAI SAGES DECIDED TO SAVE THEMSELVES BY SEALING THEMSELVES OFF FROM THE HUMAN WORLD.

...AND THAT BECAME GENSOKYO.

THAT SEEMS AWFULLY TIMID FOR THE YOUKAI I KNOW.

SO FOR ALL THEIR POSTURING, IN THE END THEY GOT SCARED OF HUMANITY AND RAN AWAY?

YEAH, PRETTY MUCH.

BUT I GUESS THAT'S JUST HOW SCARY THE HUMANS OF THE OUTSIDE WORLD ARE.

SO WHAT DOES THIS HAVE TO DO WITH THE HUMAN VILLAGE?

YOUKAI ARE BEINGS BORN FROM HUMAN FEAR.

THE FEAR OF BEING STARTLED BY AN UNKNOWN NOISE IN THE DARK,

OR THE FEAR OF SOMEONE RATTLING YOUR HOUSE. THAT SORT OF THING.

BUT,

ONCE WE REALIZE IT WAS JUST A NOCTURNAL BIRD, OR A SUDDEN GUST OF WIND,

WE WOULD STOP BEING AFRAID OF THEM.

THE IDEA THAT OUR FEARS ARE THE WORK OF YOUKAI WOULD BE REDUCED TO MERE SUPERSTITION.

FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES, YOUKAI WOULD NO LONGER EXIST.

AND THIS LOGIC APPLIES IN GENSOKYO TOO.

EVEN HERE,

WITHOUT ANY HUMANS AROUND TO FEAR THEM, THE YOUKAI WOULD JUST DISAPPEAR.

THIS HERE'S THEIR LIFELINE.

SO THAT'S WHY THEY SET UP A VILLAGE FOR HUMANS TO LIVE IN.

THIS IS ALL SO SUDDEN, IT'S HARD TO JUST ACCEPT...

SO WE NEEDED TO STICK TOGETHER TO SURVIVE.

BUT I'VE ALWAYS BEEN TAUGHT THAT HUMANS ARE WEAK AND EASILY KILLED BY YOUKAI.

THAT WOULD MEAN THE HUMANS HAVE MORE POWER IN THE RELATIONSHIP.

W-WAIT,

REALLY?

IF IT CAME TO OPEN CONFLICT BETWEEN HUMANS AND YOUKAI, THEY COULD PROBABLY WIPE OUT THE VILLAGE IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE.

WELL,

FACT OF THE MATTER IS THAT HUMANS *ARE* WEAKER THAN YOUKAI.

AND YOU PROBABLY SHOULDN'T LEAVE THE VILLAGE ON YOUR OWN TOO OFTEN EITHER.

DO YOU THINK THE VILLAGE COULD WITHSTAND ANY OF THESE THINGS? WE COULD JUST AS EASILY DIE OFF ON OUR OWN. IT'S A PRECARIOUS POSITION.

BUT EVEN IF THEY DON'T, WHAT ABOUT

DISASTERS,

FAMINE,

OR DISEASE?

KOSUZU

...

SO THEY'LL DO ANYTHING IN THEIR POWER TO PROTECT IT.

BUT, WELL,

AS I SAID, THIS IS THE LIFELINE FOR GENSOKYO'S YOUKAI.

...SO,

WHAT ABOUT YOU AND MISS REIMU?

AS PEOPLE WHO EXTERMINATE YOUKAI OUTSIDE THE VILLAGE, HOW YOU DO FEEL ABOUT THEM?

SMILE

...WELL,

WE *DO* EXTERMINATE THEM, SO IT'S NOT LIKE WE'RE ON THEIR SIDE.

SO... WHAT WAS IT YOU SAID EARLIER?

"THE HUMAN VILLAGE WOULD BE UNABLE TO EXIST WITHOUT YOUKAI"?

I'M SURE THAT'S WHAT SHE MEANT.

HA HA HA

I FEEL LIKE THEY'VE BEEN KEEPING SOMETHING PRETTY GOSH-DARNED IMPORTANT FROM ME...

SIGH...

UGH.

SOME-THING'S FISHY HERE...

BUT THEY SEEM TO KEEP AN AWFUL LOT OF THINGS UNDER WRAPS.

IT'S HARD TO THINK OF THOSE TWO AS ENEMIES OF HUMANITY.

BUT I BET SHE ALREADY KNEW THAT THERE WAS A BAKEDANUKI VISITING MY STORE AND NEVER TOLD ME.

I NEVER DID ASK,

KADONK

SO.

YOU'RE HERE. AGAIN.

GIVE ME A BREAK HERE, THERE ARE STILL SO MANY THINGS I DON'T GET ABOUT ALL THIS!

I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF YOUKAI ARE OUR ENEMIES OR OUR ALLIES ANYMORE!

BUT WE CAN'T SURVIVE WITHOUT THEM RIGHT?

HOW ARE THEY NOT OUR ALLIES THEN? ISN'T THAT WEIRD?

THEY'RE OUR ENEMIES.

THAT HASN'T CHANGED.

AND AREN'T THERE PEOPLE WHO EXTERMINATE YOUKAI?

WOULDN'T THAT ULTIMATELY JUST PUT THE VILLAGE AT MORE RISK?

I JUST DON'T GET IT.

EVERYONE THINKS THERE'S ONLY ONE TRUTH.

WHEN THEY'RE KIDS,

YOU'RE YOUNG, KOSUZU.

WHICH IS WHY YOU'VE FALLEN PREY TO A COMMON MISUNDER-STANDING.

GRR

Oh, here it comes

Sigh...

BUT,

THE IDEA THAT THE WORLD IS FINITE IS SIMPLY A DELUSION OF US HUMANS.

ONCE YOU GET OLDER, YOU'LL REALIZE THAT THE WORLD IS INFINITE.

THEY THINK THAT, JUST LIKE WHEN THEY USED TO ASK QUESTIONS TO THEIR PARENTS OR TEACHERS,

EVERY PROBLEM HAS A DEFINITE ANSWER BURIED SOMEWHERE, WAITING FOR THEM TO FIND IT.

IF THE WORLD IS MADE UP OF THE INFINITE,

THEN THERE ARE INFINITE TRUTHS AS WELL.

FINE, HERE'S THE POINT.

ALL I KNOW IS THAT YOU'RE TALKING DOWN TO ME!

I DON'T GET A WORD YOU'RE SAYING!

TWITCH TWITCH

INFINITE... TRUTHS?

AND IF THERE ARE INFINITE TRUTHS,

THEN YOU HAVE TO CHOOSE THE TRUTH THAT'S BEST FOR YOU.

SO GOING BACK TO YOUR QUESTION,

THE TRUTH THAT YOUKAI ARE THE ENEMIES OF MANKIND IS THE ONE THAT'S BEST FOR THE HUMAN VILLAGE.

SO IT'S OUR TRUTH.

ARE YOU SAYING WE *CHOSE* THIS TRUTH?

AND THAT'S OUR *BEST* TRUTH?

LOGICALLY, THAT WOULD MEAN WE'VE HANDED CONTROL OF OUR FATE OVER TO OUR WORST ENEMIES.

IT IS.

カタン

YOUKAI ARE OUR ENEMIES, BUT WE ALSO NEED THEM.

THESE TWO FACTS ARE NOT MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE.

SO BE CAREFUL, KOSUZU.

YOU WERE IN ENOUGH DANGER ALREADY.

BE CAREFUL NOT TO MISTAKE THE YOUKAI FOR OUR ALLIES.

BE CAREFUL OF WHAT?!

SHE'S ALWAYS LIKE THAT!

TREATING PEOPLE LIKE KIDS.

OUR AGES AREN'T EVEN THAT FAR APART!

PLUS,

ALL THAT CRAP ABOUT "CHOOSING YOUR OWN TRUTH" COULD BE USED TO JUSTIFY *ANYTHING*, COULDN'T IT?

ズッ

ズッ

EXCUSE ME, WHO MIGHT YOU BE AGAIN?

OH, UM, HI.

OH, HELLO THERE.

IF IT ISN'T LITTLE KOSUZU, FROM SUZUNAAN?

IT'S BEEN A WHILE, HASN'T IT?

RIGHT, I REMEMBER YOU NOW.

CLACK

OH,

SO YOU WERE AT THE HUNDRED GHOST STORIES?

Smile

NOW ISN'T THAT SOME-THING?

WEARING A SUSPICIOUS SMILE...

SO YOU REMEMBERED ME?

5月号に続く

イラスト／水炊き